



PREP – YEAR 6

# **CURRICULUM HANDBOOK**

# 2024

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# WELCOME

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Welcome to North Lakes State College. We wish you well as you begin your learning journey with us and travel from Prep to Year 6.

During the early years, students develop the foundations for learning. Literacy and numeracy are the core business of the early years and with this solid foundation, we are able to provide quality learning pathways that allow students to progress successfully into middle primary. The foundations of literacy and numeracy gained in the early years of learning are developed into more sophisticated skills in middle primary, which enable further learning in each subject area.

As students transition into middle and upper primary, students begin to investigate the larger world beyond home and school and the need to develop as autonomous learners. Students in Years 3 to 6 have distinctive and diverse needs which stem from the very significant developmental changes during this period, as well as from individual students' life circumstances, interests, skills and talents.

The primary section of our College falls into two distinct stages, Prep to Year 2 and Year 3 to Year 6.

The first stage, Prep to Year 2, involves the transition from the early foundational years where they develop and consolidate the foundations of literacy and numeracy. This is a time of expanding curiosity and eager exploration of a broader and deeper range of learning experiences.

The second stage, Year 3 to Year 6, is characterised by the demands of the intense physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of early adolescence. There is considerable diversity in how and when students move through this stage and in the impact on their attitude to and success in learning. Increasing literacy and numeracy skills and knowledge are the essential ingredients for learning in every subject and for effective communication and participation in adult life. It is essential to maintain students' interest and motivation and provide opportunities for them to continue to engage to fully prepare them for high school.

## PREP TO YEAR 6 CURRICULUM

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As a Prep to Year 12 College, with well-established tertiary pathways, North Lakes State College embodies the philosophy of life-long learning. This learning journey begins in the early years and is reflected in our curriculum, pedagogy and assessment practices and provides students with the skills to achieve their individual potential.

## LITERACY AND NUMERACY

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In Prep to Year 6 we:

- Value reading, writing and numeracy and their role in developing and empowering each and every child in their life long journey of learning
- Continuously monitor and assess to identify student needs and facilitate learning
- Include the four aspects of a balanced literacy program (modelled, shared, guided, independent)
- Include the three aspects of a balanced numeracy program (mental computations, explicit teaching focus, independent learning), incorporating strategies that focus on connecting mathematics with students' real-world context
- Expect high levels of achievement appropriate for each child
- Implement explicit teaching practices within the delivery of daily reading programs
- Promote the use of concrete materials and real-world contexts in Mathematics.

Year level teaching teams plan purposefully, reflect on student work and use class, year level and systemic data to tailor learning activities based on the individual student needs. A key component of our academic success lies in the differentiation of our programs and the wide range of subjects offered to students. Students in Prep to Year 3 have the unique opportunity to study specialist subjects such as Music, Health and Physical Education and Perceptual Motor Programs. In Years 4 to 6, the specialist subjects studied are Music, Visual Arts, Dance, Drama, Health and Physical Education, Italian and Chinese.

# AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

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The Australian Curriculum is designed to help all young Australians to become successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens. Presented as a developmental sequence of learning from Foundation - Year 10, the Australian Curriculum describes to teachers, parents, students and others in the wider community what is to be taught and the quality of learning expected of young people as they progress through school.

The three-dimensional design of the Foundation – Year 10 Australian Curriculum recognises the importance of disciplinary knowledge, skills and understanding alongside general capabilities and cross-curriculum priorities. Disciplinary knowledge, skills and understanding are described in the eight learning areas of the Australian Curriculum: English, Mathematics, Science, Health and Physical Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, The Arts, Technologies and Languages.

## SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Students with specific social, emotional, physical and academic needs are supported by specialist staff in our Student Learning Centre (SLC). The College works within an inclusive education model where specialist teachers and teacher aides work with class teachers to make educational adjustments to meet the learning needs of the student. Our philosophy on inclusive education is based on recognizing and responding to individual differences and ensuring programs of support are offered to meet the individual needs of the student. Levels of support provided are commensurate with the degree of difficulty being experienced.

## I LEARN

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Students that attend North Lakes State College in Year 4 - 6 will have the opportunity for more engaging and technology focussed learning experiences at North Lakes State College. The iPad is the device of choice due to its portability, durability, ease of use and wide variety of educational applications. Students in Year 5 and 6 are strongly encouraged and expected to have their own iPad for optimal learning and engagement in the classroom.

### STUDENTS WILL USE THE IPAD TO:

- Access class materials and work digitally utilising a range of programs and applications such as the Microsoft office and Apple Suite (*Word, PowerPoint, Pages, Keynote etc.*)
- Collaborate with their peers and share back to the class as well as the teacher using platforms such as class notebook, clips and Padlet.

### STUDENTS WILL BENEFIT FROM USING THE IPAD THROUGH:

- Increased engagement in learning materials and experiences that are more interactive and attuned to their interests.
- Development of 21st century skills such as digital collaboration and communication methods.
- Preparation for the modern workforce where digital literacy and technological competency are expected.
- A range of accessibility tools such as spoken text and visual support.

## SIGNATURE DANCE

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All areas of North Lakes State College are learning and teaching environments. We consider behaviour management to be an opportunity for valuable social learning, as well as a means of maximising the success of academic education programs.

Entry into this program is through audition only. There are three troupes running within the College: Lil/Mid Kicks (Prep to Year 6), and Kicks (Year 7 to Year 12). These troupes perform at various competitions and events throughout the year ranging from Eisteddfods to the North Lakes State College Arts Showcase evening. The troupes have demonstrated excellence in their practice, winning a multitude of awards since their inception in 2005. Within the troupes the students learn from qualified dance teachers with a fee to cover costumes and eisteddfod entries. Students require a team uniform, tights and dance shoes at their own expense.

### GOALS OF PROGRAM

- To continue the development of North Lakes State College Dance students to provide them with tools necessary to forge a career in Dance.

- To further develop the performance skills of Dance students through a variety of opportunities such as: Eisteddfods, Choreographic Development, Mentoring for younger students and other performance opportunities for various community and schooling events.
- To provide intensive specialised training for dance students and assist them in the understanding of how to improve and develop as a dancer.

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Entry via audition showing:

- Demonstration of outstanding behaviour and understanding of Prep to Year 12 Culture in College life.
- Evidence of high level of motivation and commitment to Dance through attendance, participation, personal philosophy and performance.
- Commitment to academic studies.
- High level of Dance and performance ability

## SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Students experiencing learning difficulties are supported through programs designed by our Support Teachers: Literacy and Numeracy. Levels of support provided are commensurate with the degree of difficulty being experienced. Strategies may include differentiation of tasks or assessment by the classroom teacher, through to intensive individual or small group intervention provided by a Support Teacher.

Students can also be supported in the classroom through a differentiated curriculum or may access enrichment programs at different times throughout the year.

An Individual Curriculum Plan (ICP) is provided for students at a significantly lower or higher level curriculum than their age cohort.

## STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

All areas of North Lakes State College are learning and teaching environments. We consider behaviour management to be an opportunity for valuable social learning, as well as a means of maximising the success of academic education programs. Our College learning and wellbeing, including behaviour management, is founded on principles of Positive Behaviour for Learning.

Our Student Code of Conduct Plan for Students outlines our system for facilitating positive behaviours, preventing problem behaviour and responding to unacceptable behaviours. Shared expectations for student behaviour enables the College to maintain and create a positive, productive learning and teaching environment, where all College community members have clear and consistent expectations, and an understanding of their role in the educational process.

At North Lakes State College, behaviour management is underpinned by our College motto and values:

COLLEGE MOTTO		
LEARN	LEAD	SUCCEED

COLLEGE VALUES		
CHOICE	COURAGE	RESPECT

Our College values have been agreed upon and endorsed by all staff and our College P&C Association. They are aligned with the values, principles and expected standards outlined in Education Queensland’s Student Code of Conduct policy.

# STUDENT REPORTS

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North Lakes State College provides reporting to ensure meaningful communication about student achievement occurs in a variety of modes, to a range of stakeholders. Reporting includes a teacher's professional judgement about an individual student's demonstration of the achievement standard and is based on relevant assessment items collected from students throughout the semester.

Each year, parents are provided with opportunities to meet the child's teacher for two parent-teacher interviews. Parents are always welcome to contact their student's teacher to make an appointment to discuss student achievement and welfare throughout the year.

Parents will receive a progress report for English and Mathematics at the end of Terme 1 and 3 and each semester, a formal report card is issued to provide students and families with a summative review of their achievements. Reporting provides parents with opportunities to meaningfully participate in discussions about their student's ongoing achievement. Progressive assessment is undertaken by students throughout the year. Assessment is used at North Lakes State College to provide information for further learning. Where appropriate, results are shared with parents immediately, especially if there is concern around student achievement.

For students on an ICP, achievement is reported on at the appropriate level within the students' academic report each semester.